



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

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COUNTY OF KAUAI
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SARAH K. BLANE, CHIEF OF STAFF
(808) 241-4900

Hawai'i State Department of Health Kaua'i District Health Office announces 15 new cases of COVID-19 on Oct. 23

LĪHU'Ē – The Hawai'i State Department of Health Kaua'i District Health Office reported 15 new cases on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Today's cases consist of one visitor and 14 residents. Of the 15 new cases, two are children and 13 are adults. Five of the cases are related to mainland travel. The remaining 10 cases are considered community-acquired. Nine of the community-acquired infections are close contacts of a previously announced case or are tied to an active cluster. The remaining case has no known source of infection.

Today's cases bring the number of active cases to 75, with three hospitalized, and 2,611 cumulative cases. Kaua'i's cumulative case count includes 2,552 confirmed locally, eight probable, and 51 positive cases diagnosed elsewhere, as they received their pre-travel test results after arriving on island.

DOH contact tracing and more info:

Daily case counts have declined significantly in recent weeks, but remain elevated. The Department of Health case investigators and contact tracers call all new cases, generally within a day or two of a positive test. If you test positive, there is no need to wait to hear from the Department of Health before taking action: isolate yourself at home, and let those you've been in contact with know

that they've been exposed. Your close contacts should quarantine and plan to be tested. Your prompt action makes a difference.

If you have symptoms or are feeling sick, you should isolate yourself immediately, stay away from household members, and not go out – including to work or school – unless you are seeking testing or getting health care. Those who have been vaccinated should still be tested if they believe they may have been exposed or if they feel sick.

Most reported cases are in residents who were infected in the community. Everyone, vaccinated or not, must follow Hawai'i's indoor mask requirements and gathering size limits. In addition, if you plan to travel, please be vaccinated before you go, and get tested 3-5 days after you return to Kaua'i. If you plan a trip, please be vaccinated before you go. And whether or not you are vaccinated, follow Hawai'i's prudent rules and wear a mask in crowded indoor settings.

Links to home-isolation/quarantine guidelines from DOH:

- <https://hawaiicovid19.com/testing-isolation-quarantine/>
- <https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Summary-Guidance-for-COVID-19-Cases-and-Contacts.pdf>
- https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/04/What-To-Do-If-You-Have-Been-Tested-For-COVID19_040120.pdf

Vaccine info:

Vaccination remains the most important action each of us can take to slow and prevent the spread of disease in our community. Vaccinations are widely available to anyone 12 years of age or older and are free, safe, and effective.

Many vaccination sites accept walk-ins. Residents aged 18 and older are eligible for any vaccine available at pharmacy, hospital, and clinic locations. The Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for use in those 12 years of age and older, and is currently available at Wilcox Medical Center, Līhu'e Longs, Līhu'e Safeway, Kaiser Permanente Līhu'e Clinic, and Ho'ōla Lāhui clinics in Waimea and Kapa'a.

The vaccine van can be requested to your business, event, or home by filling out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBQCWY7> or calling the Kauaʻi District Health Office at 241-3495.

The pop-up clinic and hospital van are open to everyone 12 and older. For details on the vaccination sites, visit www.kauai.gov/vaccine.

Testing info:

If you traveled off-island, get tested three to five days after you return home.

Free testing is available at the Kauaʻi War Memorial Convention Hall, weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If there is a wait, you will receive a ticket with a time to return for your test. Arrive anytime the clinic is open to receive a timed ticket; no need to arrive early.

Additionally, a free mobile testing van is available for walk-ins from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kekaha Neighborhood Center on Wednesdays, Kīlauea Neighborhood Center on Thursdays, Kalāheo Neighborhood Center on Fridays, Hanalei Neighborhood Center on Saturdays, and the Bryan J. Baptiste Sports Complex in Kapaʻa on Sundays. Testing performed at the Convention Hall and through the mobile testing van is rapid PCR. Same-day results are sent via email.

Free drive-thru testing is also available daily at Līhuʻe Pharmacy Group, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are highly recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. For an appointment, register online at PreventCOVIDHI.com or call (808) 635-4968.

Testing is also available through your primary care physician, a hospital, or an urgent care clinic. Please contact those providers directly for more information. For more details, visit <https://www.kauai.gov/covidtest>.

For more information on the county's COVID-19 response, visit www.kauai.gov/COVID-19.

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